



NORWOOD

Norfolk County

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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The earliest European settlers of what eventually became the Town of Norwood arrived from Dedham in the late 17th century. The attraction was the swift moving Neponset River in present day South Norwood near the East Walpole line. The Neponset River was to become the driving force for the Town's development throughout the next two centuries. Known officially as the second parish of Dedham, most inhabitants referred to their village by its Indian name, Tiot. The population grew through the 18th century, and names such as Tiot, Morse Village, and Ellis distinguished the various population centers within South Dedham.

On February 13, 1872 Norwood became a town of Norfolk County when the Act of Incorporation was approved by the General Court. At that time, 1,825 people, almost exclusively Anglo/Saxon Protestant, lived within its area of 10.48 square miles.

Spurred by its status as a separate town, Norwood was launched into a growth pattern. Between the years 1872 and 1922, industry replaced agriculture as the economic base of the community. Many of Norwood's industries were world-famous for their products. Several of these old industries have since dissolved or moved out but others have survived and prospered.

Attracted by the rise of new industry, various foreign-born people moved into the Town and the population increased to over 12,600. The influx and assimilation of immigrants has placed Norwood among the most culturally diverse towns of its size and type in New England. Economic and physical expansion culminated in the "Town Manager" form of government in 1914 as a more effective way to administer the growing town.

Industrial development continued in Norwood through the mid-20th century. After World War II a gradual shift to high tech occurred in Norwood. Major corporations have found Norwood's proximity to Boston and access to major east coast population centers to be attractive for business. The Town is now considered one of the more important manufacturing, suburban-residential, and wholesale and retail trade centers south of Boston.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Westwood on the north, Canton on the east, Sharon on the south, and Walpole on the west. Norwood is 14 miles south of Boston; 15 miles north of Brockton; 30 miles north of Providence, Rhode Island; and 205 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 10.55 sq. miles

Land Area: 10.48 sq. miles

Population: 28,700

Density: 2,739 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Blue Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....49.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Norwood

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 762-1240

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1872

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	16,264		
Democrats	7,035	43.3	%
Republicans	1,788	11.0	%
Other parties	4	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	7,437	45.7	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Norwood town, Norfolk County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	28,587	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	28,587	100.0
Male.....	13,517	47.3	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	473	1.7
Female.....	15,070	52.7	Mexican.....	45	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,693	5.9	Puerto Rican.....	106	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	1,662	5.8	Cuban.....	36	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,693	5.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	286	1.0
15 to 19 years.....	1,332	4.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	28,114	98.3
20 to 24 years.....	1,390	4.8	White alone.....	25,606	89.6
25 to 34 years.....	4,758	16.6	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	4,740	16.6	Total population.....	28,587	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,743	13.1	In households.....	28,024	98.0
55 to 59 years.....	1,345	4.7	Householder.....	11,623	40.7
60 to 64 years.....	1,219	4.3	Spouse.....	5,913	20.7
65 to 74 years.....	2,425	8.5	Child.....	8,155	28.5
75 to 84 years.....	1,851	6.5	Own child under 18 years.....	5,681	19.9
85 years and over.....	746	2.6	Other relatives.....	1,045	3.7
Median age (years).....	38.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	196	0.7
18 years and over.....	22,652	79.2	Nonrelatives.....	1,288	4.5
Male.....	10,508	36.8	Unmarried partner.....	415	1.5
Female.....	12,144	42.5	In group quarters.....	563	2.0
21 years and over.....	22,003	77.0	Institutionalized population.....	460	1.6
62 years and over.....	5,749	20.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	103	0.4
65 years and over.....	5,022	17.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,923	6.7	Total households.....	11,623	100.0
Female.....	3,099	10.8	Family households (families).....	7,382	63.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	3,157	27.2
One race.....	28,290	98.8	Married-couple family.....	5,913	50.9
White.....	25,873	90.5	With own children under 18 years.....	2,602	22.4
Black or African American.....	659	2.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,153	9.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	27	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	484	4.2
Asian.....	1,446	5.1	Nonfamily households.....	4,241	36.5
Asian Indian.....	921	3.2	Householder living alone.....	3,413	29.4
Chinese.....	232	0.8	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,390	12.0
Filipino.....	60	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,314	28.5
Japanese.....	18	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,357	28.9
Korean.....	104	0.4	Average household size.....	2.41	(X)
Vietnamese.....	47	0.2	Average family size.....	3.05	(X)
Other Asian ¹	64	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	-	Total housing units.....	11,945	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	11,623	97.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	322	2.7
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	3	-	occasional use.....	34	0.3
Some other race.....	221	0.8	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	357	1.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.8	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	11,623	100.0
White.....	26,164	91.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,650	57.2
Black or African American.....	761	2.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	4,973	42.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	69	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.68	(X)
Asian.....	1,549	5.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.05	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	14	-			
Some other race.....	394	1.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	385
Conventional Federal:	96

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	13
Federal (Section 8):	192



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Norwood is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate Route 95, U.S. Route 1, and State Route 1A, which all run between the inner and outer belts circling Boston, State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 respectively.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available to Back Bay Station and South Station, Boston, from Windsor Gardens (travel time to BBS: 25-35 min.; no MBTA parking), Norwood Central (travel time: 21-31 min.; 393 parking spaces) and Norwood Depot (travel time: 27-28 min.; 223 spaces). Amtrak's passenger service between Boston and New York City stops at the Route 128 Station in nearly Westwood.

Bus

Norwood is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service between Walpole and the Forest Hills Orange Line Station. Transfare Inc. offers service within the town.

Other

The Norwood Memorial Airport, a Reliever Airport located 2 mi. E of Norwood, has two asphalt runways: 4,001'x 150' and 4,007'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. The Norwood Airport, site of the Interhospital Organ Bank, is an important center of corporate aviation for the greater metropolitan Boston region.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Norwood Hospital

Long Term Care

Charlwell House

Colonial Care Center

Denny House Nursing Home,

Ellis Nursing Home

Norwood Nursing Home

Victoria Haven Nursing Fac

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.